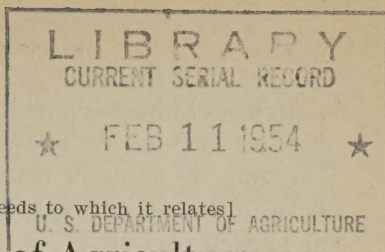


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S. D.—77. [This leaflet is distributed only with the seeds to which it relates]

United States Department of Agriculture,

BUREAU OF PLANT INDUSTRY,

New and Rare Seed Distribution,

WASHINGTON, D. C.

GREAT NORTHERN FIELD BEANS.

OBJECT OF THE DISTRIBUTION.—The distribution of new and rare seeds has for its object the dissemination of new and rare crops, improved strains of staple crops, and high-grade seed of crops new to sections where the data of the Department indicate such crops to be of considerable promise. Each package contains a sufficient quantity for a preliminary trial, and where it is at all practicable the recipient is urged to use the seed for the production of stocks for future plantings. It is believed that if this practice is followed consistently it will result in a material improvement in the crops of the country.

Please make a full report on the accompanying blank regarding the results obtained with the seed.

HISTORY AND DESCRIPTION.

The Great Northern variety of field bean is of peculiar interest, because it is one of the few types that can be definitely traced back to aboriginal agriculture and also because it is very nicely adjusted to the region where it was grown by the Indians and often fails to make a crop outside its original home.

This bean variety was secured from the Fort Berthold Indians about 1884. It was given the name Great Northern in 1896 and has been on the market ever since. It has spread widely in the Northwest, but it was not until called out by the World-War conditions that it was grown commercially. The main center of its commercial production is Billings, Mont., where about 40 carloads were marketed from the 1917 crop.

The Great Northern is an extremely early variety and is especially adapted to northern latitudes. It has never given a good crop at Washington, D. C., the plants grown there being small and very early blooming, and after ripening a small early crop of pods they die. In their native regions the plants make a good growth and produce a large number of pods. The Great Northern bean makes a short vine that will not climb a pole, yet the stems show a twining habit. The leaves are fairly large and dark green. The pods are green, from 4 to 5 inches long, and become whitish in color on ripening. They contain 5 or 6 seeds. The seeds are pure white in color,

flattened, kidney shaped, and in well-grown specimens are about half an inch long. The variety is very productive, plants sometimes carrying 50 or more pods. It is comparable to the ordinary navy bean in its uses and value for food. It is a field bean and not a snap or garden variety.

DIRECTIONS FOR PLANTING AND CULTURE.

The seed should be planted as soon as danger from frost is over. Rows should be spaced 3 to 4 feet apart, and from half a bushel to 3 pecks of seed should be planted per acre. Culture must be clean, shallow, and continuous until the plants begin to bloom.

Warm sandy loam soil of limestone origin is the soil best suited to this variety. It will succeed, however, on various types of soil. It is not benefited by large applications of nitrogeaneous fertilizers, as they tend to produce too much vine growth at the expense of fruiting.

REGIONS TO WHICH THIS BEAN IS ADAPTED.

It succeeds well in North Dakota, Montana, Minnesota, and Manitoba, and would doubtless do well in northern Wisconsin and Michigan. It grows well at high altitudes in the Mountain States as far south as southern Colorado. It is not at present recommended for planting in the bean regions of Michigan and New York.

Approved:

WM. A. TAYLOR,

Chief of Bureau.

AUGUST 8, 1922.